

**Project Title and Project Purpose Statement**

The California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network – CLEAN - Climate Resiliency Organizing Project. The purpose of CLEAN is to protect our air, water, and natural resources in low income, minority communities to help alleviate climate change at the local level

CLEAN will create and implement student led CLEAN chapters at various local high schools and colleges in Los Angeles County. The education project will focus on the causes of climate change and what students can do to mitigate, minimize, and counter climate change at the local level. We also intend to develop environmental science curriculum that can be adopted at various high schools and colleges.

An education and organizing campaign will focus on the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Training workshops will be held where students will learn about environmental Federal laws, root causes of climate change, and the creation of a student led Climate Resiliency blog. CLEAN Resiliency Organizing Project blog will serve as an educational and advocacy tool related to climate change

Students will be trained to become leaders/organizers in their schools and communities.

**A summary description of the proposed project including the goals the project seeks to achieve;**

Output: CLEAN will create a sense of urgency and self-empowerment for students who will advocate for environmental protection within their schools, colleges, and communities. To be implemented/achieved in 2015.

Outcome: 100 students and affected community members will help to identify the sources of pollution and to develop solution oriented advocacy strategies and community organizing campaigns that will result in long term solutions – at the local level. Students will attend meetings where policy decisions are made regarding environmental climate change issues.

Output: Create California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network – CLEAN chapters at various high schools and college campuses in 2015. Develop and implement environmental science related curriculum.

Outcome: To inform 300 community members about the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Toxic Substances Control Act.

Output: To help reduce air, water, and toxic chemical contamination throughout California through education and organizing campaigns – making the connection that climate change is tied to public health issues and vice versa. Achieved within 2015-2016.

**• Location of where the project will take place (include city, state and zip code);**

CLEAN is headquartered in Los Angeles, CA but we are a statewide environmental non-profit. Our board members live in different regions of California such as Richmond, CA, Fontana, CA, San Francisco, CA, Kern County, and other cities.

• **Identify the related environmental statute(s) from the list in Section I.C.**

*CLEAN plans to focus on the following environmental statutes:*

*Clean Water Act, Section 104(b) (3)*

*Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442I (3)*

*Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)*

**If applicable, identify the project's community climate resiliency focus** Informing and education students about the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act Federal laws and how they can be implemented at the local level. Students can inform, educate, and empower their family members regarding climate resiliency efforts.

**II. Environmental, Public Health and Community Climate Resiliency(if applicable) information about the Affected Community**

The California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network – CLEAN was founded by key environmental leaders who live and/or work within the areas that are most environmentally contaminated in Los Angeles County and throughout California. The primary geographic area is Los Angeles County and the state of California – to focus on Counties that are more environmentally polluted. The demographics are a good indication that a statewide, Latino, environmental protection non-profit needed to be established.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau: The total California population is 38,332,521. 14,358,000 are Latinos. 39% of the California population is Latino. Los Angeles County has a total population of 10,017,068. 4,900,000 are Hispanics/Latinos. 48% of the Los Angeles County population is Latino.

Environmental protection is a life or death issue for poor community members. CLEAN is needed because the areas most impacted by air, water, and toxics contamination take place in poor communities. Many invisible individuals are getting asthma, cancer, diabetes, and other illnesses due to contamination.

**The local environmental, public health and climate resiliency issue(s) (if applicable) that the project seeks to address;**

CLEAN's intention is to provide useful information and to bring more awareness and consciousness regarding local environmental issues via students.

We plan to establish CLEAN chapters in high schools and colleges to make the connection that environmental issues are also public health issues. Also, in the past, Climate Change was discussed as a global issue. However, via CLEAN, we intend to provide accurate local and statewide information regarding climate resiliency issues.

**Results achieved from the efforts to address the local environmental, public health and climate resiliency (if applicable) issues(s);**

The results achieved will be the development of key partnerships with well-established environmental non-profits and environmental justice groups. We will convene one annual summit to discuss vital issues and to develop a common agenda – in order to be effective in protecting our air, water, and natural resources. With a focus on climate resiliency issues.

We will also achieve the development of a membership base, throughout California.

CLEAN organizer will help to create and implement CLEAN chapters at various public schools, colleges, and universities. CLEAN plans to develop a student led and created climate resiliency blog to help promote local environmental protection issues – via the written word, in English and Spanish language.

Through workshops, CLEAN will address what are the roots sources of the environmental problems? CLEAN's goal is organize from the bottom up. To safeguard our environment – but most of all – to protect the health of the working poor. The key is to inform, mobilize, and empower the impacted community members who are literally stuck in the most polluted geographic areas of California.

CLEAN's goal is to save lives. Through education and advocacy. The key is that CLEAN has taken the first step, the establishment of a viable non-profit – who intends to be around long-term.

**The characteristics of the affected community;**

The characteristics of the affected communities are that they are low income and minority.

They have low education levels and working class jobs. Many have two or three part time jobs in order to be able to pay the rent or mortgage, buy food, and pay the bills. Many do not have time to attend community meetings but student leaders will help to bring awareness and to involve community members to inform them about climate resiliency

**How the affected community may be disproportionately impacted by the environmental, public health and community climate resiliency (if applicable) harm(s) and risk(s);**

Environmental protection is a life or death issue. CLEAN is needed because the areas most impacted by air, water, and toxics contamination take place in poor, minority communities who do not have enough money or political clout to advocate and organize to have a unified voice. Also, many of these community members do not realize that they are being poisoned on a daily basis. Many are getting asthma, cancer, and other illnesses due to contamination. Therefore, the California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network was founded to help protect our environment.

**III. Organization's Historical Connection to the Affected Community Please describe the following:**

**The history of the organization's involvement with the affected community, including the length of your involvement and how you became involved;** We conducted an assessment of the current Latino and Environmental Justice non-profits in California. We did not find one statewide, Latino led and founded environmental non-profit, therefore we felt that a great need existed for the creation of the California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network – CLEAN.

We publicly announced our organization on April 22, 2014 (Earth Day). However, the founders/board members are decades long well known activists and leaders. Our current volunteer Executive Director, Randy Ertll formerly served as the New Voter Organizer for the

California League of Conservation Voters (CLCV) from 1996-2000. He has a long track record of advocacy and social justice work towards helping disenfranchised community members.

Our current Board President, Valerie Cuevas grew up in El Monte next to a contaminating plant and she now lives in Richmond, California near the Chevron Refinery. She knows first-hand the struggles of the working poor and advocacy work that is necessary to obtain environmental justice. Our other board members have long histories of environmental and social justice work. They live and/or work in the most contaminated areas of California and they are keenly aware of the challenges in relation to climate resiliency.

**How the organization has worked with the affected community's residents and/or organizations to address local environmental, public health issues and community climate resiliency (if applicable);**

CLEAN is a new non-profit and all of the work that we have been doing in 2014 has been on a volunteer basis. We chose to get involved with the Exide Battery Recycling Plant issue in order to solidify the outreach and media awareness campaign – in order for the public to recognize that over 100,000 low income residents in Southeast L.A. have been poisoned for over three decades by this unchecked polluter.

We are beginning to build alliances/partnerships with other key environmental non-profits and developing communication to have good working relations with Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Environmental Defense Fund, Sierra Club, California League of Conservation Voters, Padres Unidos de Maywood, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE), and many other environmental justice groups.

**How the residents of the affected community are part of the decision-making process;** The residents of the affected communities know best what is exactly going on in regards to environmental pollution since they have to live with dirty air, contaminated water, and toxics/chemicals in their communities. CLEAN intends to begin a Nation Builder membership campaign and we truly believe in developing leadership at the grassroots level. The affected community members will help to develop organizing and advocacy strategies – that best fit each urban, suburban, or rural area. Students will be an integral part of our Climate Resiliency organizing project.

**How the organizations' efforts have increased the community's capacity to address local environmental, public health issues and community climate resiliency (if applicable); and How the organization maintains and sustains an ongoing relationship with the affected community's residents and/or organizations.**

Through our involvement with the Exide Battery Recycling Plant campaign – we were able to obtain local, state, national, and international media coverage and we helped to make the connection between protecting our environment and public health issues. We have strong relationships with community groups in Southeast Los Angeles such as Padres Unidos de Maywood (PUMAS). We have begun to make the connection of the local polluters that contribute to climate change. The communities that live in these areas have been resilient with all of the contamination from Vernon factories.

#### **IV. Project Description**

The Project Description is an opportunity to describe the strategies for addressing local environmental, public health and community climate resiliency issues (if applicable). Describe how the project will educate and empower the community, project goals, the components of the project, the timeframe to accomplish the proposed activities and the evaluation process for determining success (a timeline and/or milestone chart is strongly suggested). The roles and responsibilities of all key organizations involved in the project should also be included.

The Project Description **MUST** address the following items:

i) A concise description of the activities the project will undertake during the year to examine and address the environmental and public health issue(s), e.g., training, education/outreach programs, capacity-building efforts, research etc.

The project is led by 10 environmental activists who live and/or work within the areas that are most environmentally contaminated in Los Angeles County and throughout California. The California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network - CLEAN is a community led effort that will focus on advocating for the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act to be implemented and enforced at the local level.

Through the establishment of CLEAN, we intend to train key students and environmental activists to become more effective in their community organizing efforts, and leadership development skills. Through the Project Manager work – student's CLEAN clubs/chapters will be established at various public schools, college, and universities.

The California Environmental Protection Agency has now produced technological tools that show where the most contamination is taking place. Students can use this technology to share on the blogs and social media networks. Link: <http://oehha.ca.gov/ej/ces2.html>

The California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network – CLEAN is needed to exist – in order to provide a voice and to advocate for the community members who are most impacted by environmental contamination. Please see link: <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/inside-criminal-justice/2014-07-environmental-crime-the-prosecution-gap>

The establishment of CLEAN public school and college chapters will be key in helping to provide accurate information, to empower and educate, and to make the connection between environmental protection and public health issues. We intend to partner with USC, UCLA, and Occidental College.

**The local environmental, public health and community climate resiliency (if applicable) results the project projects seeks to achieve; and**

Students, working class community members & CLEAN's leadership will directly benefit since they will learn new skills to empower themselves – through community organizing and advocacy. With the accumulated knowledge and training they will be able to lead a community organization effectively.

One of the first steps of empowerment is for community members and students to begin to understand the concepts of environmental justice, social justice, empowerment, organizing, and impacting policy and legislation. And how they can take steps to help reduce environmental

contamination – through advocacy community organizing, and becoming members of CLEAN through our Nation Builder blog.

Also, students will provide bilingual information about what is Climate Change, Climate Resiliency and how we can decrease climate change and how to identify solutions at the local level – that are driven by community members.

The individuals who are implementing CA Latino Environmental Advocacy Network came together due to the common commitment for social justice. There is a burning desire to protect the most vulnerable from environmental injustices. Also, many environmental injustice issues need to be addressed as soon as possible since many people are getting sick via environmental contamination.

The most impacted community members own the project and the organization is being led by the above mentioned community leaders/community members. The project will be a collaborative effort and students will play a fundamental role.

The project's goal is to provide the resources and tools for the founding members to help protect our environment – through community organizing, media, legal and policy advocacy. What is different is that it is community led – by the affected community members – who have the heart & soul to make changes. It will approximately one solid year to help us get off the ground.

**How the project will achieve these results. Describe and/or identify activities designed to educate, empower and enable the community to understand the environmental, public health and community climate resiliency (if applicable) issues.**

The results will be that each founding member – from the core leadership – will be trained and knowledgeable – creating a strategic plan that will be implemented statewide. Hopefully CLEAN will hire a paid executive director who will organize and implement board of director meetings, plan and implement an organizing plan to attend key meetings where environmental policies and laws are implemented, and who will help to implement the student led Climate Resiliency Organizing Project at local public schools and colleges.

CLEAN is currently being run on a volunteer basis.

10 core leaders are the Board of Directors for CLEAN.

**How the organization's efforts will increase the community's capacity to address local environmental, public health and community climate resiliency (if applicable) issues.**

Establish of the student led CLEAN chapters at various public schools, colleges, and universities.

A van or bus will be rented to transport students and community members to attend Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Air Resources Board, and Water Board meetings. Impacted community members rarely attend these important institutions that are funded via tax payer dollars. Press conferences will be conducted to bring more consciousness and attention to environmental protection issues.

A first successful step was the formal establishment of the CLEAN Board of Directors. The Board helps to spearhead the development of community organizing efforts & will also help to develop and train community members in different cities throughout California.

Completion of 5 training workshops, implementation and completion of two field trips to key environmental policy/legislative institutions. Organize and conduct two press conferences. Establish meetings with Secretary of Cal EPA and Secretary of Resources for the State of California.

CLEAN will be evaluated by the founding Board members and also by implementing the previously mentioned goals and dreams. Ultimately, community members will be the ones to determine whether CLEAN has actually helped them by providing an advocacy institution – creating an effective voice for the under-served.

The Board of Directors will be evaluating the project that will eventually be implemented by the executive director and board members also. A brief survey will be conducted to obtain feedback from various community members – to identify the most pressing environmental issues.

Decisions will be made by the core 10 group leaders. Training of Robert's Rule of Order will be conducted in order to have efficient meetings. The board of directors is composed by 10 members who set macro policies for CLEAN.

The California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network – CLEAN is a new non-profit organization that has obtained fiscal sponsorship from EARTH WORKS who are located in D.C.

The leadership is based on trust and historical commitment focused on social justice and a common commitment to protect our environment. Since it is a new non-profit that is being created and established - the 10 core leaders are the founders. Offering an opportunity for fresh ideas, innovation, inspiration, and a willingness to sacrifice to help others.

**How the project is related to the environmental statutes you identified in your Threshold Eligibility Form (see Section I.C and Appendix A). Please note each project must include activities that are authorized by one of the federal environmental statutes listed in Section I.C.**

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**ii) A concise description of how the organization and its partner(s) will work together during the year to address the local issue(s).**

The California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network – CLEAN is currently building a membership base via Nation Builder and is also developing formal partnerships with other environmental groups.

The goal is to develop a solid partnership/coalition of 20 reputable and reliable environmental non-profits.

We will develop an annual summit where all of the partnership organizations will come together for a one day retreat to develop a statewide agenda and strategic plan to be implemented as a coalition. Students will organize and implement the annual summit. They will set the example for adults, that they can work together to achieve environmental protection.

**The role of your partner(s) in addressing the local environmental, public health and community climate resiliency (if applicable) issue(s);**

Each partner organization already has an established track record and autonomy in the environmental work that they have been doing for many years. Through CLEAN, we intend to serve as the bridge between the mainstream environmental groups and the Latino community. That is the missing link. We need to come together as environmental non-profits to develop a common strategy in working together to address climate change and how it impacts low income, minority communities on a daily basis.

CLEAN and all other environmental non-profits will be equal partners in this monumental work to address air, water, and toxics contamination.

**The nature of the organization(s), and what resources they bring to the partnership;**

These will be well known environmental organizations and they bring a wealth of resources depending on their unique Missions, Visions, and track records. The resources that they will bring are fundraising capacity to share with others, legal expertise, policy know how, effective community organizing strategies, and effective media campaigns. Together, the 20 organizations will bring key resources and expertise to the table. The common goal will be to protect the environment.

**How the partner(s) has a vested interest in working with this partnership [other than just getting income], commitments made, and specific activities it will be responsible for; and**

The commitments will be to become official and equal partners of the statewide coalition. At the annual summit, specific activities will be determined. Each organization will undertake one goal to achieve – that will help the coalition/network to have success.

**How the applicant plans to maintain and sustain the partnerships.**

In community organizing, the key rule is to establish face to face meetings to establish trust. The Executive Director of CLEAN will have the monumental task of maintaining and sustaining the coalition work. It will be agreed to be done for one year and if effective and successful, then the coalition can agree to continue working together – long-term. We want to take a democratic approach that each organization can decide whether they want to continue being part of the coalition.

**V. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capability**

**Please provide the following information:**

**The organizational and administrative systems (e.g., accounting programs) the organization has in place that will be used to appropriately manage, expend, and account for Federal funds;**

CLEAN has officially obtained fiscal sponsorship for Earthworks. They are a well-known and effective national environmental non-profit. They have a stable budget and professional staff that has tremendous experience in management and accounting of Federal funds.



**How the applicant has successfully managed these projects in the past;**

CLEAN's volunteer Executive Director, Randy Ertll, has extensive experience in dealing with Federal grants. He successfully wrote, secured, and managed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing and Urban Development grants within the City of Pasadena. These Federal grants were extremely competitive. Also, Mr. Ertll secured Federal funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – OJJDP. The projects were successfully implemented and they tremendously helped to reduce violence and gang activity in Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley.

**How the applicant plans to effectively manage and successfully complete this proposed project;**

We plan to effectively manage and successfully complete this proposed project through being focused, responsible, and diligent in implementing our goals – to achieve positive outcomes.

**Organizational experience (or the ability to obtain such experience) to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project.**

CLEAN's current Executive Directors has a wealth of experience in managing top notch non-profits. He led El Centro de Accion Social for over 8 years in Pasadena where he raised over \$3 million for social services and effective youth/academic programs.

**If the applicant has been a recipient of an EPA and/or other Federal grant/cooperative agreement in the last five years, please indicate past performance in meeting reporting requirements (e.g., progress reports, financial status). Please also include the name of the Project Officer overseeing the grant/cooperative agreement and the assistance agreement number associated with the project(s);**

**If the applicant does not have prior experience in managing federal funds please indicate this in the work plan narrative, you will receive a neutral score in this area. Failure to do so will result in receiving a score of 0 for this element.**

**VI. Qualifications of the Project Manager (PM)**

**Please describe the following:**

**• The qualifications of the PM as they relate to the project;**

The Project Manager has previously managed Federal grants from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Justice (DOJ), and multi-year grants from major Foundations – some of the individual grants were in the range of over \$180,000.

**How the PM has ties to the community and/or organization; and**

The Project Manager has over 20 years in doing efficient community work and has successfully worked for and managed top non-profits. For example, he was Executive Director of El Centro de Accion Social which is one of the largest and oldest Latino non-profits in California. He previously served as Communications Director for Congresswoman Hilda Solis on Capitol Hill.

**Past activities that the PM has worked on with the community.**

The Project Manager has intensive experience in the fields of education, healthcare access, and environmental protection. He has done community organizing and coalition building work while he worked for the California League of Conservation Voters – CLCV. Also, the Project Manager is a teacher within Pasadena Unified School District and Glendale Unified School District. He has thorough experience with education and excellent student relations.

## **VII. Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes**

**Provide the following information:**

- **A list of any Federal or non-Federal grants or cooperative agreements (not Federal contracts) of similar size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project that you worked on within the past three (3) years (no more than five (5) agreements, preferably EPA agreements). Please include the grant or cooperative agreement number, title of the project, the amount of funding, funding agency or organization, and point-of-contact;**

Community Development Block Grant - Housing and Urban Development – City of Pasadena. Point of contact in Pasadena John DePew and point on contact in Washington D.C. Sherry Cantelon. Office of Juvenile Delinquency and Prevention – Department of Justice – Point of contact – Congressman Adam Schiff (Burbank, CA).

**A description of how you have documented and/or reported on progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes under prior and/or current assistance agreements; and**

The Project Manager – former Executive Director of El Centro de Accion Social was successful in documenting and reporting the met/achieved outputs and outcomes from Federal funds obtained from Housing and Urban Development and Department of Justice. The projects were extremely successful and we obtained repeat funding each other due to success of implementation and professional reporting.

**If you did not make any progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes, describe whether you have documentation and/or reports satisfactorily explaining why.**

We did achieve our outputs and outcomes.

**If the applicant does not have prior experience in reporting outputs and outcomes please indicate this in the proposal, a neutral score in this area is given. Failure to do so will result in receiving a score of 0 for this element.**

We do have experience in reporting outputs and outcomes.

## **VIII. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Information**

**Indicate whether you believe that your project will involve the use of existing environmental data or the collection of new data (use the checklist in Appendix I to assist you in making this determination). For more information about Quality Assurance Project Plans, please consult the following website <http://www.epa.gov/quality/qs-docs/g5-final.pdf>.**

**You are not required to develop a QAPP at this point. You are only being asked to determine whether or not you will need a QAPP should your project be selected for funding. If required, then an approved QAPP must be in place prior to the initiation of project activities.**

Our project will use existing environmental data provided by Cal EPA and U.S. EPA.